

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Commerce

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

3b. GSA Committee No.

80491

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

07/26/2016

6. Expected Renewal Date

07/26/2018

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

33 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.

13. Effective Date

03/30/2009

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 3 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 3 Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
OEAB members will discuss and provide advice on Federal ocean exploration programs, with a particular emphasis on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) activities; discuss nontraditional ocean exploration platforms; discuss National Ocean Exploration Forums; and conduct its annual review of the OER federal funding opportunity process; and other matters as described in the agenda found on the OEAB website at http://oeab.noaa.gov .	01/30/2018	01/31/2018
OEAB members will discuss and provide advice on Federal ocean exploration programs, with a particular emphasis National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) leadership priorities and how they align with a national ocean exploration program. Other topics will include implementation of the President's Executive Order on a Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals; other federal agency activity in support of this executive order; NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) activities; and other matters as described in the agenda found on the OEAB website at http://oeab.noaa.gov .	05/16/2018	05/17/2018
OEAB members will discuss and provide advice on Federal Ocean Exploration programs, with a particular emphasis on NOAA OER activities. The OEAB will also discuss NOAA Forums, the Atlantic Seafloor Partnership for Integrated Research and Exploration (ASPIRE) campaign, and developments in technology related to ocean exploration, as well as review the Education Subcommittee recommendations and other matters as described in the agenda	09/25/2018	09/26/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 3

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$30,113.67	\$35,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$28,550.00	\$30,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$58,663.67	\$65,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.60	0.60

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Oceans Exploration Advisory Board (the Board): a. advises the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (Under Secretary) on priority areas for survey and discovery; b. assists the program in the development of a 5-year strategic plan for the fields of ocean, marine, and Great Lakes science, exploration, and discovery; c. reviews annually the quality and effectiveness of the proposal review process established under Section 12003(a)(4); and d. provides other assistance and advice as requested by the Under Secretary.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Board consists of approximately ten members including a Chair and Co-chair, designated by the Under Secretary in accordance with Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) requirements. Consideration is given to members that are experts in fields relevant to ocean exploration, including ocean scientists, engineers and technical experts, and experts in education and communications. Membership is open to individuals from academia, government, industry, non-governmental not-for-profit organizations, and other ocean-related institutions. Consideration is also given to members that have national and international reputations, or have degrees or professional qualifications in: physical, chemical, or biological oceanography, social sciences, or ocean engineering, technology, operations, education, and/or communications. Members have scientific credentials and/or relevant experience that enable them to provide expert advice concerning the Boards' roles within the context of NOAA's ocean missions and policies. OTHER BALANCE FACTORS: The categories of professional sector, geographic, gender and ethnic diversity are considered in the selection of Board members but are secondary to the scientific and technical expertise required.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Board meets approximately three times per year. The meetings are required to assure that all members are fully informed and are provided the opportunity to contribute.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Board is established by law. It reports to the NOAA Administrator as directed by 33 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

Re: payments to federal members: We have a member who is employed by USGS and one employed by NASA. In the past, we were asked to include a value for the salary of Federal employees who were members of the OEAB for their participation in meetings even though NOAA does not, of course, cover the salary costs of these members. The RGEs are being reimbursed for travel and per diem by their home agency. "Please see the Costs page for details on these payments."

Designated Federal Officer

David McKinnie DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Austin, James	10/01/2014	06/30/2019	Senior Research Scientist Univ of Texas Inst. of Geophysics	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Demopoulos, Amanda	10/01/2014	06/30/2018	Research Ecologist US Geological Survey	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Dixon, Jacqueline	10/01/2014	06/30/2020	Dean College of Marine Science Univ of South Florida	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
German, Christopher	10/01/2014	06/30/2019	Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hume, Cameron	10/01/2014	06/30/2019	Business Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kreider, John	10/01/2014	06/30/2018	Senior Vice President, Advanced Technology Oceaneering International, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lang, David	10/01/2014	06/30/2020	Co-Founder OpenROV	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lim, Darlene	10/01/2014	06/30/2018	Research Scientist NASA Ames Research Center	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Nye, Nicolette	10/01/2014	06/30/2020	Vice President for Communications and External Relations National Ocean Industries Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rikoski, Richard	10/01/2014	06/30/2020	CEO/Chief Scientist Hadal, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rissolo, Dominique	10/01/2014	06/30/2018	Executive Director, Waitt Institute	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Towers, Lance	10/01/2014	06/30/2020	Director, Advanced Technology Programs The Boeing Company	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 12

Narrative Description

The purpose of the Board is to advise the Under Secretary on matters pertaining to ocean exploration including the identification of priority areas that warrant exploration; and the development and enhancement of technologies for exploring the oceans, managing the data and information, and disseminating the results. The Board will also provide advice on the relevance of the program with regard to the NOAA Next Generation Strategic Plan and other guiding documents.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

OEAB recommendations could result in efficiencies and cost savings to government, but these are not possible to quantify.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

46

Number of Recommendations Comments

The OEAB provided 6 recommendations and recertified the OER federal funding opportunity process to the NOAA Administrator in FY18. The annual FFO certification is required by law. The OEAB met three times during the year and produced letters summarizing recommendations or its FFO process certification at each meeting. Some of these recommendations were high-level strategic recommendations, or are recommendations that must be implemented over time, or are recommendations that NOAA may implement in the future. The NOAA Administrator met with the OEAB chair several times and participated in the September 2018 meeting as an expression of his interest in the Board's recommendations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

63%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

See comment above.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

13%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

See comment above. Recommendations partially implemented generally require time (more than one year) to implement.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The agency provides feedback through formal letters to the OEAB chair, through senior

agency participation in OEAB meetings, and through discussions between the OEAB chair and the OER director.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) has begun to implement many of the OEAB recommendations that fall within its span of control.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Note that the OEAB is charged with an annual review NOAA's process for making ocean exploration grants, not a grants review. The OEAB conducted this annual review at its March 31-April 1 2015, 13-14 September 2016, and again at its January 2018 meeting.

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

All OEAB documents and meeting information are available at the OEAB website (oeab.noaa.gov)